REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These Remarks are responsive to the Restriction Requirement mailed August 10, 2005 ("Restriction Requirement").

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner issued a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 of claims 1, 9-12, 17, 24 and 28-32 pending in the application and requested Applicants to elect for prosecution a single Group from the following five groups:

I. Claims 1, 9-12, 17, 24 and 28-32, drawn to methods, wherein claim 12 recites SEQ ID NO:1, classified in class 426, subclass 34.

II. Claims 1, 9-12, 17, 24, and 28-32, drawn to methods, wherein claim 12 recites SEQ ID NO:6, classified in class 426, subclass 34.

III. Claims 1, 9-12, 17, 24, and 28-32, drawn to methods, wherein claim 12 recites SEQ ID NO:10, classified in class 426, subclass 34.

IV. Claims 1, 9-12, 17, 24 and 28-32, drawn to methods, wherein claim 12 recites SEQ ID NO:14, classified in class 426, subclass 34.

V. Claims 1, 9-12, 17, 24, and 28-32, drawn to methods, wherein claim 12 recites SEQ ID NO:16, classified in class 426, subclass 34.

See pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action.

Applicants hereby elect Group II, i.e., claims 1, 9-12, 17, 24 and 28-32, with traverse. The restriction requirement is improper for at least the following reasons: (i) each Group contains the same claims; (ii) each Group is classified in the same class and subclass; and (iii) the Examiner fails to identify linking claims. Specifically, claim 1 is a linking claim that links the inventions of Groups I-V. In fact, claims 9-12, 17, 28-29, and 32 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. "If a linking claim is allowed, the examiner must thereafter examine species if the linking claim is generic thereto, or he or she must examine the claims to the non-elected inventions that are linked to the to the elected invention by such allowed linking claims." See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (8th ed., rev. 2, May 2004) ("M.P.E.P.") §§ 809.03-

04. Thus, rejoinder of the inventions of Groups I-V is respectfully requested in the event that claim 1 is found allowable.

Applicants submit that this response addresses all of the issues raised in the Office Action. Applicants further submit that claims 1, 9-14, 17, 24, and 28-32 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby solicited. Should any issues remain to be discussed in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,
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